

Clarissa Keplinger Rinaker
Civil War Diary
Dec 1863 - Aug 1865

Dates in the 1930's refer to Judith Jordan Anderson's
transcription dates of the diary.
Compiled by Anne Denby Michael 27 Sep 1994

December 18, 1936

PAGES FROM THE HISTORY OF MACOUPIN COUNTY

By Judith Jordan Anderson

Clarissa Keplinger Rinaker was truly a remarkable woman. She was indefatigable in anything she undertook for herself to do for others.

Never did she consider for a moment putting aside her interests in her church and community. Neither the arrival of four sons; criticism of what she believed right; nor the war (Civil War) through which she suffered much, changed this determination. Born July 18, 1834, she attended MacMurray College (even now, in 1936, so named) from which she parted to marry John I. Rinaker. But she never ceased to study. With Sue Dick (for whom the Susan Dick Library on East First North Street was named. ADM 1994), she organized the Chautauqua course in Carlinville. She took every possible subject and after her examinations went to Chautauqua, New York to graduate. Subsequently, she became a student of English literature.

A strong advocate of temperance, Mrs. Rinaker wore a badge some time before she became a charter member of the new W. C. T. U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union). Always active in the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies of the Methodist Church, she was one of the tireless money raisers for that organization.

Clarissa Keplinger, tall, slender and always immaculate, was the eldest of twelve children. Just twenty-nine at the beginning of this diary, we know she, seemingly, towered beyond the reach of "Copperhead" criticisms. But we feel the fine sensibilities, which were part of her, could not obliterate internal suffering.

CIVIL WAR DIARY OF CLARISSA KEPLINGER RINAKEK

(Mrs. Rinaker was the wife of General John I. Rinaker, and the "we" in the opening paragraph included herself and the two small sons, Tommy and Sammy. Lewis, the father of Isabel Rinaker, Modesto, Illinois was not, yet, born at the time of the writing of most of this diary. EJD 1994))

1863

December 16th. Snow foot deep on the ground and raining. Brought in the clothes to thaw and dry and iron, then to pack in trunk. Went up town in the afternoon to make final preparation for going to Paducah. Came home thoroughly wet and tired. Found Papa here to stay 'til day after tomorrow. Mrs. Dugger, Woodward and Mr. Morqan came to see about our going. Mr. Chapino sent pair of boots to his brother. We were all ready and waited until the train was gone, but no hack came to take us down. So, we had to take off our things and I was so disappointed I was almost sick and it was such an awful, rainy night.

17th. Cold and every thing frozen into ice. We started at 10. Papa got off at Auburn. We reached the Junction at 11 & waited and took dinner & started at 10 o'clock. A stock train about one hour ahead of us. Four of the wheels came off a cattle car & dragged on the track and there we stood fast until morning when they succeeded in getting it off and at 10 we landed in Decatur, tired, dirty & hungry. We had a room & washed & rested & slept and with a good dinner & supper we were off for Centralia. It was awful cold weather. At Centralia we changed cars, took a sleeping car & about 10 next morning we were in the "St. Charles" at Cairo (Illinois) a miserable dirty smoky place, and had breakfast.

At 4 we went, on the packet "S. C. Baker", a nice, clean boat.

Dec. 20. Sunday morning, at three, landed at the wharf. Before sunup, we left the boat & walked out to camp, about 3/4 of a mile from the river & just west of the Court House. Found John in bed. Darcy (a negro) just making a fire. We all went down to the Hotel, a cold, dirty, comfortless place. Negroes everywhere, doors left open all the time, board (was) six dollars a week. I had the "blues", for we were tired and dirty and could not get a private room with fire. We slept in a room with no outside windows & the air very impure.

Saw the first specimen of snuff dipping. It is a more filthy & disgusting habit that I had supposed it to be. Offensively disgusting.

Dec. 21st. Mon. morning after breakfast we left early for a private boarding house on the street from the river

about two squares east of the Courthouse, or three, just a nice walk in good weather, street graded and McAdamized (black topped. ADM). In the evening went to camp. Found Hardin sick. He went to the hospital. I stayed until dress Parade. Mrs. Lofton staying in camp, also Mrs. Burrington. Capt. Leigh and family board at the hotel, Mrs. Drish at her uncle's, me at Anderson's. Most of the officers are day boarders here.

Dec. 22nd. Tues. morn. I went to camp and John went with me to Hospital to see Hardin. Found him better. Chaplain sick in the same room. Dr. Bishop taking good care of them. One man in hospital, dangerously sick.

Dec. 23rd. Wed. morning. Went to camp, but they would not let me go to the hospital, as there is an alarm of smallpox there. A man died, who went there yesterday evening, very suddenly. I sent some dried peaches, butter & jelly, sat awhile in Mrs. Lofton's tent and came home to dinner.

Mrs. Lofton & Burrington came in this afternoon, and sat an hour or two. It is very cold today after two or three warm days. John's health is, I think, better since I came down. He has been poorly all the fall.

Well, great is the darky (negro). I am just getting introduced to the institution and feel perfectly bewildered with the black faces, for they all look so much alike to me.

This evening there seems to be something going on, John is going down to the Fort to-night. He says if I hear guns in the night, I must take the children to the city Hotel, close to the river, as this part of town will be destroyed by the guns in the fort. Forrest, it is said.....to dine in this place on Christmas. They are placing cotton bales around the fort to protect the gunners. I hope Forrest will be our guest on Christmas and not we, his. I am not at all afraid, not as sensible, perhaps, of the danger, as I ought to be. But, I guess it will all blow over. Hope so, but if there is to be trouble, I would like to be here to see.

Dec. 24th. Well, last night Lieut. Lofton and wife came along & told me it was time to start, for all the soldiers had left camp. Pickets had reported Forrest out two miles, coming in with 1,500 men. So I crammed everything into our trunks & started with the children. We sat about an hour in the hotel & then came home a few minutes before John came, not knowing what a tramp we had been on. I am glad to have had the experience, if it was a false alarm. And if there is to be a real one, I hope I will be here, for I find I am not at all afraid, and have perfect self possession, and can, I think, take care of myself & children in any common emergency. But I shall not start out again until I see the 'secesh' (Southern sympathizers. ADM) coming.

Christmas eve in Paducah, Ky. Beautiful moonlight night. Firecrackers & guns popping all over town.

Christmas Day. Children find candy & nuts in their

stockings & an extra fine orange, apiece, fresh from N. Orleans. Took the children to camp, & then, John & I went to the Hospital. Found Hardin still improving. Came back in time for a good dinner. They sent us up a glass apiece of egg nogg last night, but I declined without tasting. Some of the boarders gave Sammy a paper (a square of brown paper folded into a cone. ADM) of candy and Tommy a bunch of firecrackers. After dinner, we went out walking & came by camp in time for dress parade.

Darkies (negroes), here, got their dram and permission to go out in town an hour or two in the afternoon. Miss Mamie Anderson went to a dance a night. (Tom Rinaker was to become the father of Harriet, Jane and T. Kelly' Rinaker . Sam Rinaker was to become the architech who would advise George F. Jordan on the home he would build for his family including Judith, who would marry Rivers Anderson; Emily, who would marry Rivers' brother, James C. and Elizabeth, who would marry W. Gordon Denby. The former Jordan home would be located at 512 East First North Street in 1910. It is still standing, but not occupied by Jordan family. EJD 1994)

December 24, 1936
1863

Dec. 26. Sat down stairs an hour or two this morning. Old lady Anderson dips snuff. Rainy all day & last night.

Dec. 27th. Sunday, rained all night, and all day today. Tommy is very sick today. Dr. Bishop came to see him this morning. I think he ate too much candy & nuts on Christmas and his stomach is very much irritated, and high fever todav.

Dec. 30th. Wednesday night. Days come and go so much alike, I can scarcely remember the day of the week. Mrs. McKnight & Peebles are in camp & divers (diverse) other women, whom I know not. I would like to go there myself, if John would have a floor in his tent and a partition through the middle, as it is a large tent. Tommy is well, again. He and Sammy went, to camp this afternoon and I stayed here aloneand felt very much in the notion of moving to camp.

Ellen, the negro girl who makes our fire in the mornings (making 2 or three trips away down stairs before it is completed), says her master hires her out and gets all the money. Keeps her little girl at home. Says she hopes she will never have another child, and I hope so, too, for her.

It is a poor world for little darkies to come into. I never heard the language of slavery before & it caused me to feel very strangely, although I thought I was perfectly familiar with it, from books and other descriptions. Yet, how strangely it sounded from the poor creature's own lips, not

complainingly, but as a matter of course. Ellen has never known anything better, and yet she is, evidently, thinking much but despairingly of something so much better, if she could only find it.

Dec. 31st. And cold as can be. Warm & rainy last night--we had our window raised. Wind shifted to north, and is snowing, a perfect gale, and I have not suffered as much with cold any day this winter.

The house is open & fireplace small & wood green & I wish I was in camp. Darky Jim came to bring John's trunk from getting it mended. He lingered to talk awhile. He says his 'massa' gave him to John. What an eye he has, & peculiar complexion & features, half Indian.

Well, I must say, I never saw a worse snow storm at home than this is getting to be. Cannot distinguish objects a few hundred yards distant, out of doors, & my toes are roasting & my ears freezing before this little fireplace where there is enough wood and heat wasting, to keep a common room comfort-able half a day, if it was in a good stove.

Poor soldiers in camp. I am afraid their tents will blow over and leave them in an awful condition.

Tommy and Sammy are racing around like caged bears. Snorting and bouncing. Sammy rubbed his eyes this morning saying, "Oh, I dreamed the prettiest story last night, you ever heard." and presently meaning to say something about 'exercise' he called it 'working-cise'.

1864

New Years's day it was so awful cold that we did nothing from morning 'til night but try to keep from freezing. All water in our room was frozen solid, and continued to freeze all day within two feet of the fire. Three persons. it is said, froze to death in town during the night of Thursday.

Two of the 58th on picket duty at the wharf. Many of the 122nd have frostbitten ears & toes but their extra clothes and blankets came, on that very evening, and, by keeping up fires, they managed to keep soul and body together.

Jan. 2nd. I have not experienced as much from cold, dirt, and discomfort, generally, as I have since I have been in Paducah, Ky. For three days now, I have been, literally, roasting on one side and freezing on the other, at the same time. Slavery and fireplaces go together, both belong to a half civilized state of society, in a warm climate, no real comfort in either. Both very nice to read of (about), in poetry in a free country by a glowing stove, but, when put to the test of experience, all the poetry vanishes & discomfort and vexation only are left.

The sun is shining this evening, giving promise of warmer weather & oh, may it come. Surely, there can be nothing more cheerless than winter in the 'Sunny South'.

And the darky cooking meat--beef, pork, sausage,

chick- en, fish, backbone pie--meat, meat, meat for breakfast, for dinner, for supper, meat! With the slightest possible sprinkling of tough, greasy pie for dessert at dinner. No fruit at supper, but molasses. My tea, this morning, was nothing, under the sun, but hot water & milk, not even the faintest trace of tea, in color or taste. So, I preferred cold water, and to make this all the more grinding, most unconscionable prices to pay, to sesech at that.

December 31, 1936

1864

Jan. 3rd. Sunday. Has been snowing all day & still snowing. Lieut. Mr. a Mrs. Lofton spent the day with us. We were invited to Capt. Leigh's for dinner, but could not go on account of their being here. Mr. Lofton wishes to resign. I expect he ought to, but it is a pity some of the drinking men couldn't go in his place. The water is so hard, the children's faces & hands, and my own, are so chapped as to feel miserable. Have not experienced as much discomfort in any two weeks since I have been married, as in the two I have spent here. When I visit Paducah again, may it be in summer.

Jan. 5th. Tuesday. And we are still struggling to keep warm. Water froze hard in this room last night, & I have to wear a shawl almost constantly. Tried to wash a little of the dust off the floor this morning but it froze the water as soon as it touched the floor, even on the end of the hearth, itself. I turn one side to the fire until it is well baked, and the other, by contrast, feeling almost frozen. Then, I change sides. My eyes are baked 'til they hardly have any color left, and so on, indefinitely. I suffer more from cold than the women in camp do. We have paid 20 dollars board here already, besides the six dollars for one day and night at the Hotel. I washed a few things last night, and have been ironing them and mending them today. We have paid \$1.75 for washing & ironing already. Wonder what the cannons are firing down at the fort for. John didn't come home to his dinner, either. I wonder if something is up, or if it is only some Brigadier's birthday.

Jan. 10. Sunday. That was only a salute to Gen. Sherman, who spent the night in town. The regiment was hurried down to help give him a reception at the expense of frostbitten fingers & toes.

Well, the time goes, one day like another, excepting that some days are, if possible, more cold than others. Today, we, that is, John and I, went to the Methodist church, and heard the Rev. Mr. Slater preach a pretty good sermon.

In speaking of social relations, besides the ordinary ones

of parent & child, husband & wife, he added that of 'Master and servant', which was sufficient to remind one that we were in a slave state. In his prayer he omitted (as our copperhead preachers at home do) to pray for our soldiers, or the success of our armies. The men sit on one side, the women on the other. Singing by the congregation and poor at that, all of which is very methodistic. The weather is not quite so cold today. Reamer took dinner here & sat in our room an hour or so. He & John & Tommy have now gone to camp. Sammy has gone downstairs & I am alone, alone! I have read Victor Hugo's book, 'Les Miserables'. I think I must read it, again, as I have skipped many chapters, to keep up with the story, and they are interesting, I know.

Jan. 17, 1864. One month today since I left home & last evening John came with the unwelcome news that the regiment is under marching orders. How I do hate to think of it. I would like to stay two months, yet. Indeed, I do not want to go home, at all, without John. Oh, how I hate secession, and slavery, the father of it.

We are on the street that runs from the river out to camp by the court house, now a hospital. We are in the corner, caused by the intersection of another street on which the Methodist church is situated. I took a walk one day out on this street about 3/4 of a mile. I have walked down to the river with the children two or three times to let them see the water craft in the river and a large boat up on the "way". Paducah is a tolerably large place, some very good houses and a great many very shabby ones. I see old houses, once dwelling houses, now used as stables by the cavalry. Soldiers passing the streets at all hours. Cavalry, infantry, sharpshooters, camp negroes, ambulances, and army wagons, and all the arrangements of war. Guards pass to their daily picket posts, bayonets gleaming in the morning sunshine. Poor fellows, they have had some hard times. There have been a number of deaths in Co. I., from exposure, caused by lack of plank to make comfortable sleeping places. And so it goes, a half dozen lives for a few plank. Another load for the souls of the authors of this miserable secession.

Jan. 19. Tuesday morning. At 4 o'clock (after waiting from 10 o'clock with our things on), we went in an ambulance to the boat, Rob Roy. Five companies on the Rob Roy, two co's on the Kaskaskia, and three remained in the fort. We reached here (Cairo) about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. We went on the "Sioux City" and stayed all night.

Jan. 20. We went, that is Drish & family, & our family to the "St. Charles" & stayed until Friday morning. (Cost 12 dollars)

22nd. About 12 o'clock we came down here to Head Quarters & took possession of our rooms. we have a front room, upstairs & small bedroom attached. I, at once, proceeded to wash the windows & square table. Had the darkeys to change the bed to the back corner of the room &

put the table in its place in the front corner. (Cairo--in abandoned one time hotel, of boards, no plastering, two stories & joins fort at one corner.) And had Tuck wash off both floors with an old sack. Bought some old newspapers & pasted them up for window curtains, & they looked real clean & nice, with a black oil cloth on the table, & my basket & books, magazines & papers & such like, gives a kind of home look to our room.

We have a new broom & small looking glass, camp candle stick and "such like", indispensable, & two old chairs. The coal stove is one of my annoyances, and the dust which is all the time floating around, is another. Mrs. Drish's room is opposite ours, the Chaplain's between at the head of the stairs in front, & the kitchen & dining room back. Drish's girl, Ellen, is the cook & John, his man, waits on her, & Jim & Tuck wait on us & the Adjutant, and feed the horses. And so we enjoy our fixing up very much. (more alas! than we will the up which will come before very long.) Hardin's health is not very good. He and McMillan board with us. The chaplain & surgeons & assistants are messing (eating) together.

Jan. 25. Warm day. Boat came in tonight, from up the Mississippi.

Jan. 27. Very warm to day. Men are getting paid off &, of course, all in extra good humor with themselves a Uncle Sam, too. The poor privates have a short allowance. I don't see how those of them, who have families, depending on them only for support, can manage to live. There is not much of ours left, & I am as economical as most people. A part of the 14th passed through here this morning going home, having reinlisted. Shunk Keplinger came up to see me. The 7th Kansas also & the 3rd Iowa passed through. Mrs. Drish & I went this afternoon to call on Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Freeman.

Jan. 28. Such a nice warm day this has been. There was dress Parade this evening. I ironed this morning a washed some things, emptied the feathers out of John's pillow, and washed it & put them in, again. Had John, the darkey boy, wash the dining room floor. Read some & all together, passed a pleasant day. John spent a part of the afternoon with me. Saw a pair of the sweetest little girls in front of the house this evening.

But, finally, had my indignation aroused, just now, by hearing the Chaplain say to some one in his room, "Well, lets 'I and you' play a game of checkers". Now the grammar of that is enough to "rile" any one. But, in addition, to think that ever since I have been with the regiment, I have been wondering whether the Chaplain was going to preach & have been trying to think of some place where it would be convenient to have it, & have listened daily to hear some mention made of prayer meeting. But not a syllable of the kind. I have even suggested having the large hall below cleaned out for a room for prayer meeting. But here is the

Chaplain, whose sole business is ostensibly to look after such matters, seeming to think of nothing but his meals, his sleep, loafing about by days & playing checkers at night. My indignation boils up. I long for some one to whom to tell what I think of it.

Ladies walking the streets with parasols.

January 7, 1937

Cairo, Ill.

Jan. 29 (1864) Lieut. & Mrs. Cotter & two children took dinner with us today. In afternoon, Mrs. Cotter, Mrs. Drish, Mrs. Valentine & myself walked around town some. I bought Sammy a rubber toy, and jeans to make Tommy a pair of pants. After we returned, we went over to the Fort & all through the magazines. Then, took supper & now the children are taking theirs. It is warm, very warm weather, wish I had a spring shawl with me. My greatest trouble is about Tommy getting himself so dirty.

Jan. 31. Sunday. Rainy; rained last night & the night before. Yesterday, Sat., I made Tommy a pair of pants. Sewed buttons on shirt for Hardin & mended a coat for Jim. Washed the children, thoroughly, at night and put clean clothes on them this morning, from top to toe. And they will dirty them a great deal easier than I can get them clean.

About 10 o'clock, Mrs. Dugger (Capt. Dugger's mother) came and stayed until 5 o'clock, took dinner with us and what was worse, offered to pay Mrs Drish for her dinner. She seemed to have a very wrong idea of the way we are living here. It rained all day and night, too.

Feb. 1. Clear & cool. There was a funeral from the Hospital today of a poor private soldier.

I fixed up pair of pants for Sammy & made some tea cakes this afternoon. Mrs. Cotter was here again, on her way home as she could get no place at all to stay in Mound City.

John bought a looking-glass this evening and a silk dress for me, 2 dollars a yard. I am afraid it is not as good a bargain as we could have made at St. Louis, but I need it so badly, or at least, other women all have them & I suppose I ought. We are getting along very nicely here, now, but all the time dreading when we must leave, suddenly, most likely. Oh, when this cruel war is over! But, the news today is that the rebels have taken Knoxville. (Later--That was a fib.)

Feb. 3. Received a letter from Henrietta in the evening, and am very uneasy about her. I am afraid she will have an awful hard time. Wish Alec was with her.

Feb. 4. Mrs. Burrington cut out my silk dress this afternoon. John has gone up town to see if Gen. McClernand

came as was expected.

Feb. 7. Sun. Clear & pleasant. A drunken Irishman, shooting at random, hit one of the soldiers slightly & was sent to the guard house before breakfast, 1/2 past nine. Had to send twice to the market or commissary for the steak, & it about 2 miles distant.

Yesterday, saw some 200 recruits pass by, just from the north to fill up old regiments. Quite a number of men are to go from this regiment to get recruits. Some officer will go with them, perhaps John will go himself. If so, we will start tonight.

I received a letter from mother last evening stating that Henrietta (1) has a fine daughter born on the 2nd. She is doing very well, so far.

John has concluded not to go home, but to send Col. Drish. I am sorry to have Mrs. Drish go, as it will leave me all alone, the only woman in the house, and if Mrs. Valentine goes home the last of the week, there will only be Mrs. Freeman & Burrington left, that I am acquainted with.

Sun. 14th. A fine day. Slight sprinkle of rain last night, hardly enough to lay the dust. Drish & wife started home last Monday noon. Friday, Mrs. Dr. Seaman came & took their room. Yesterday, John went to Columbus & returned late last evening. I wanted to go to church to-day, but John wouldn't go with me.

Brass band came out on dress parade for the first time. They also gave us a serenade the other night. They do remarkable well for such a short practise. John got a letter from Drish. John took horseback ride.

15th, Mon. Rained last night, but cleared off nicely this forenoon. John went to Columbus again today. Sergeant John White of Palmyra, died in hospital last night. Bacon child died the night before. Our children keep very well, so far. I have not felt well for two days, headache & backache. It is very warm, pleasant & still.

Feb. 16. The wind changed into the north last night, and blew a perfect gale. I was afraid our old house would tumble over. It has been very cold all day, and is all we can do to keep warm, in this old shell of a house, formerly, the "New England House", the hotel of Cairo before there was a "St. Charles". John is gone to Columbus, again. I have done nothing today but try to keep warm, leaning over the stove, and read Pickwick, which grows very interesting as it goes on. There are some such thoroughly, inimitably amusing passages in it. But, I must get closer to the stove. Have felt better today than yesterday.

Feb. 18. Still cold weather. John did not go to Columbus yesterday, but went today and took Tommy with him. It is still very cold and disagreeable weather. 'Tis 8

(1) This little lady born Feb. 2, 1864 was the late Mary Van Winkle (Mrs. Will B.) Otwell of Carlinville.

O'clock & I expect John & Tommy will come soon, cold as can be. It is becoming monotonous, the never ending arrival and departure, of cars & boats, and the routine of camp life.

Daily, squads of recruits, and bevvies of strangers, come down to look at the Fort & walk up the levee to see the barracks.

Feb. 21 (1864) Sunday. Very warm nice day. John and I took a long walk down the levee this afternoon. Came back through a part of the town. Cairo differs from most towns in its suburbs; being indeed 'scrub'-urbs. There is room all around, inside the levee, for an immense number of soldiers & from the indications, they have been there at some time. The soldier home, back of the "St. Charles", seems completed, and is, all the time, patronized by quite a crowd.

The Mississippi is filled with floating ice from up the river.

Hardin's leave of absence came today & he starts home at three in the morning. Mrs. Seaman also starts at the same time, which will leave our family very small. Perhaps, I ought to go too, but I don't like to, while John stays here. O, how I wish this hateful war was over. So we could all turn our faces homeward.

Mon. Feb. 22. Our regiment fired a salute of 34 guns in honor of Washington's birthday, using six bushels of powder, in so doing. The brass band was out at dress parade again this evening.

I brought my dress home this morning. Paid \$3.50 for making it and made the skirt myself. And, now, don't much like the fit of the sleeves. It has cost about- \$37.00. That is an enormous amount to pay for one dress these war times, but we can not get anything without paying dearly for it. And I suppose my position calls for a black silk, at least. We have been making mince meat for pies, today. I have just finished it since supper.

Capt. Duncan of the 32nd called about half an hour ago & I had Ellen get him some supper, which he is now eating. He lost a leg at the battle of Pittsburg landing, and now walks with a wooden one.

26th, Friday. Mrs. McMillan arrived last night, St takes the room formerly occupied by Mrs. Drish and Mrs. Seaman. This is a very idle, unsatisfactory sort of life here. Many an hour is wasted, that is, if every moment not spent in actual toil may be considered wasted. But, I suspect, sometimes that, after all, work, work, work, is not the only end of humanity.

Feb. 28. Sunday. The weather was warm, dry & very dusty and windy yesterday, but last night it rained hard, & now (10 o'clock) the wind has turned to the north & the rain has turned to hail & sleet.

We had our usual Sat. night's bath last night & full

supply of clean clothing. Our room is clean and comfortable, good coal fire in stove, books papers to read, same as at home. Some way, books naturally gather around John wherever he goes, they having an attraction for him or he for them. I wish we could all go home together to stay.

Our family consists at present of John myself & our two children, McMillan & wife, and her brother, Will Page, and the servants Jim, Tuck & Ellen.

I read, last week, Abbott's "Life of Josephine".

Mar. 1. Tuesday. Nice sunshiny day, snow fast melting off. Ellen washed & clothes are drying in my room & I fear I am taking cold, in consequence. We keep well, and are living quite comfortably here. I never could have believed that I could live contentedly for so long without the appliances and conveniences of home (1864). I think I am getting to be quite a cosmopolite, & could drop down feel at home almost any where, if only John and the children are with me. A few years ago, I scarcely thought myself living at all, unless at home, with all the countless wheels & cog wheels of domestic life revolving regularly around me.

John has come up stairs & is reading out loud in Prescott's "Ferdinand & Isabella". He has just finished "Prescott's Biographical & Historical Miscellanies".

I have been amusing myself the last few days (having nothing else to do) by re-reading Hugo's "Les Miserables". Poor miserable humanity. It has need of pity.

Mar. 6. Sunday, bright sunny morning. I would like to go to church, but John is so afraid of smallpox. I am not afraid of anything. I had Jim & Ellen vaccinated last week lest they should take smallpox. The Dr. carelessly put it in their right arms, on the fleshy part below the elbow, where it is the most in the way about their work. That is a sample of army surgeons carelessness. Hospital Steward Wise, being a Baptist preacher, contemplates going into a colored regiment as chaplain. So, in order, I suppose, to accustom himself to the work, he has commenced teaching Jim, Tuck, Ellen & Wade to read. They use John's office for a schoolroom every night and we furnish the candles and they are to pay him five cents a night for his instruction, and they come to me (that is Jim & Ellen) during the day, to learn their lessons.

Capt. Chapman is downstairs. He is on his way to Johnson's Island with prisoners. Lieut. Lofton of this regiment allowed a pair of the rebel officers, he was taking to Columbus, O., to escape.

Maj. Chapman took dinner with us on Thursday. I read "Peculiar" this week, but there is nothing new in it, nor has there been, in any book of the kind, since Mrs. Stowe's (Harriet Beecher Stowe) "Uncle Tom's Cabin". All that have followed have been imitators, or at least suggested by it. None, not even "Dred" will rank with "Uncle Tom".

Afternoon. John & I did go to church, & heard Hughey preach a good sermon. There seemed to be some commotion in

his congregation when he alluded to theatre going, & similar anti-Christian amusements.

I helped John to finish "Ferdinand & Isabelle" and then we went with the children down to the river, where the drays are unloading coal into the barges, the same as on a week day, and the "Effie Deans" is being loaded with government Stores. The cars bring huge loads of hay & coal and, as a general thing, Sunday is not much better kept in Cairo than I suppose it is in Paris. But there are two Christians (meaning Clarissa & John. ADM), even in Cairo, who keep up the churches, also in Paris. So they meet not with the fate of the cities of the plain.

January 28, 1937

Carlinville

Mar. 29 (1864). It seems, from the paper, that Paducah was attacked by Forrest last Friday (25th) 7,000 strong. The Union forces 4 or 500 went into the fort & repulsed the enemy three times. The gun-boats, then, shelled the town. Many of the houses were burnt, as they afforded shelter to the rebel sharpshooters. They robbed the stores, of which I am glad to hear, for all the rebels, from Tennessee, had turned merchant there, selling goods to those who would take them back into the country where secesh would pay high prices for them & guerrillas would supply themselves with them.

Forrest, also, took Union City, Mayfield & Hickman & threatens Columbus, and I would not be at all surprised to hear of an attempt on Cairo. The old Barracks at Birds Point, it seems, have been burned, for some reason. But, I think it may have been accidentally, as there has been fires in the woods there, for a month or more. I received a letter from John today, written on 25th, just after his arrival at Cairo. There had been a fire, several buildings burned on the levee. I hope he will not be sent on another chase after Forrest, still, I do think they ought not to allow him to escape again. Though I am not sure, but he is doing the cause a real service by destroying those places which only serve as good smuggling depots. He, also, devastated the border country; they can raise nothing for the rebels to draw supplies from, in the future.

Mar. 30. Had dutch woman washing for me.

Mar. 31st. Mary Maher, Irish girl commenced working.

April 1st. John takes command of the post at Cairo today. Mrs. McCoy called (came to call upon me ADM), today.

Apr. 2nd. Went up town in morning. Mrs. Drish called in evening.

Apr. 3d. Tommy & Sammy went to Sunday School. I went to church. Cold, damp east wind today. Have had but two

letters from John since I left Cairo. Mrs. McMillan has come home.

Monday 4th. Received a letter from John written on 31st. Tuesday Mrs. Gilbert called. Wed. went to Mrs. Woods in the evening, also to Mrs. Nantz & Woodward's, but they were not at home.

Thurs. 7th. Rec'd letter from John written on 3rd. He is boarding at St. Charles. Was sick all day, took blue pill the night before.

8th Friday. Took another pill last night and have been sick all day. Don't think I will take another.

Apr. 10th. Sunday. Cloudy & cold. Rain for day or two. I felt some better yesterday. Mrs. Dugger came awhile in the afternoon. I feel still better today. Received a letter from John yesterday, written on the 6th. Tommy went to S. School this morning. Mary has gone to the Catholic church. The body of soldier Lee, who died from wounds received at Paducah, was brought home yesterday & buried by Catholics this morning. It is said, there was a furloughed soldier from the 108th killed at the depot, by falling on the track & cars running over him .

Apr. 15. Friday, Lewis (Keplinger) came, at last, to see us. He looks quite natural. Had been to a soldiers dinner, yesterday, at Palmyra. Weather cold & rainy.

Sun. 17th. Lewis & I went to church & heard McMillan preach an excellent sermon, to a full house, although it was a very unfavorable day.

18th. He left early this morning. Have been trying, since, to clean house, succeed slowly.

Apr. 24th. Sunday, rainy & has been for two days & nights. Last Thursday night, there was a soldier supper in town for the benefit of the Sanitary fair at St. Louis. Soldiers & their ladies went free, others paid 50 cts. Not as many there as there ought to have been. I have had one room papered. Had a man working yard and garden two days and a half and I paid him 5.00 dollars, 2 dollars per day. I made one kettle of good soap. Have had the yard cleaned, house cleaned, except the kitchen & putting down carpet in one room upstairs after it is papered. It is cold & rainy today. We have stayed at home, I have read to myself & the children in the Bible & Repository. Mary went to Catholic church.

I have 2 & 3 letters a week from John. I have written 3 to him this week. I must write to him this afternoon & ought to write to Hardin, too. Thursday night 53d (Regiment ADM) went through here.

Apr. 30th. We started to Morgan (County? ADM) Went on cars to Auburn. Then in the hack to Waverly. Went to church on Sun. with aunt Katy and heard Wm. McAlfresh preach & in the afternoon heard the Episcopal clergyman preach. Saw aunt Matty Sappington. She took dinner at uncle Jeff's.

Mon. May 2nd. Went in hack to Papa's. Whole trip cost (\$).250 and it was so cold & rough. I was almost sick.

Lewis (Keplinger) was quite sick and on Tuesday night we heard that Henrietta was very sick at Williamsville at Dr. Van's.

May 4th. Papa took me to the depot at Alexander as mother could not leave Lewis and I stayed at Williamsville until Sat. morning. (Mary, the baby born Feb. 2, 3 months old.) I went back to Papa's & found that Sammy had been quite sick while I was gone, but was well, then. Lewis, too, had been worse, but was getting better. He & Henrietta had both had Erysipelas in the head & face.

May 14th. Alec, having heard of Henrietta's sickness, had gone on leave of absence to see her & brought her down.

15th Sun. I went to church at Franklin (near Jackson-ville). Heard Norton preach.

Tuesday 17th. Alec went back to his regiment.

22nd Sun. I went to church again, heard Giles Woods preach.

23rd. Mon. night nine o'clock, John came in a buggy from Carlinville.

May 25. Papa took John & Tommy & our trunk to the depot to go to Springfield & Lewis came in the buggy with Sammy & I to Carlinville. Thursday, Lewis started to his regiment. So, we are at home this pleasant Sunday evening, May 29. We all went to church this morning. John will stay another week with us and, then, he must go again. He is out swinging the boys. I must get ready to take a walk with them as we have promised to do.

June 2d. Thursday afternoon. Mr. Mayo & John, and his children and ours, and Mr. Dugger went out to the creek. Mr. & Mrs. Mayo and Mr. & Mrs. Dugger took supper with us. On Wednesday evening, we took a walk & called on Grandma Dum-ville.

June 5th. We started to church with the expectation of hearing Cloud preach, but came back, as we heard he had not come.

**NOTE: Hardin and Lewis Keplinger were brothers of Mrs. Rinaker's; Henrietta, her sister, who married Alec Van Winkle. They were the parents of the baby, Mary, the late Mrs. W. B. Otwell of Carlinville.

February 4, 1937

Carlinville, 1864

Wed, 8th (June). John started, again this morning, for his regiment at Cairo. He spent all the day, yesterday, at home with us. In the afternoon we read in Pope's "Odyssey" & spent the day pleasantly. Indeed, all the time he has been at home this time, has passed pleasantly. He says he has enjoyed this visit home better than any other since he has been in the army. He was in

better health than he usually has been, and I, too, have felt unusually well. It will be a comfort to remember it, if he should never come back to us, that the last weeks we spent together, were such happy ones. But, oh, how I long for the day to come when he can come home, not as a visitor, but as one of us, the chief one in the family.

Tommy went to the depot with his father this morning, carrying a huge bouquet for him. Sammy ran out to the gate after him, to tell him to buy him some gooseberries, and so sure enough, when Tommy came back, he had a lot of gooseberries and two little brass horns on which they have been discoursing most discordant music ever since.

"Oh, this home is sad and dreary every where I roam" today, and I am sighing for the husband not at home. But the children are left me & great little codgers they are. When Lewis and I were coming from Morgan, I called Sammy's attention to some hogs that had been marked by making round holes in their ears. "Yes", said Sammy, "that is where they weared them out". He, evidently, was thinking of the holes he had 'weared' in the heels of his stockings, sometimes.

We had a little shower this morning and we needed it, for everything was dying for rain, but there has not been half enough, yet.

June 12th, Sunday. Very cool, had fire in stove all day. Tommy went to Sunday School, & Sammy & I to church. Heard P. (Peter) Cartwright (famous circuit rider. ADM) preach. Took a walk with the children this evening. Last night when I was washing Tommy, he had me count up how long it would be 'til his next birthday &, then, said he, "You must get me something, you must get me something 'til I am twenty one years old, then, you must give me some great long present and after that, let me go, for presents." Query--is it instinctive for boys to become men at that age? Then, he wanted to know what I got when I was six. "Nothing", I told him. "Nothing? And what did they give you on your other birthdays?" "Nothing". "Humph! & didn't anybody ever give you anything?" "Now", said I, "you see that children have better times now, than they used to have".

I weeded & laid out my flower beds, yesterday, & made the hills & set out 20 cabbage plants. It was an awful hard days work & I am very stiff and sore today, in consequence.

June 19th. Sunday. Very warm this morning, it threatened rain, but did not rain here, did some other place as it has turned quite cool, or some cooler, at least. Last Monday I did my own washing. Tuesday ironed & have done all the work during the week, and am staying alone, that is, self & children. I made me a new calico dress this week. Yesterday, I went up town, bought fish & half bucket of peas & shelled them, picked and cleaned a

quart of gooseberries, made & baked pies, baked bread, and made Tommy a pair of pants, & myself a short night gown, and wound up all, by giving myself & children a wash in a tub of water in smokehouse. It was a beautiful, moonlight night. I received 3 letters from John this week. They are yet at Cairo, but expect to leave soon.

I still have Tommy to read one lesson every day. In reading the story of Casabianca (1) the other day, he broke completely down, burst into tears, too, but on very different occasions, indeed.

June 24. Tommy, Sammy & I planted a young walnut tree.

June 26. Very warm for three days past no good rain for a long time. Tommy has gone to S. School. Sammy & I expect to go to church & we will almost melt. I washed & ironed this week & did all the rest of the work. Went to see Mrs. Drish, Monday afternoon, called on Mrs. Logan & Hunter on two evenings. Had two or three letters from John this week. It is said, they have left Cairo, but I do not know for certain, yet.

Made myself another new calico dress. We all keep very well, indeed, though I hear of sickness in some families.

Sun. July 3d, 1864. We still keep well. It is cool and pleasant today but there was only a sprinkling of rain. Tuesday afternoon, Grandma Dugger took supper here. Wed. I took dinner at Mr. Duggers with Mrs. Boring.

I have had three letters from John this week, one written last Sunday at Cairo, the day they left there, and one written on the boat, "Magenta" on the way to Memphis.

The children & I went to S. School. Heard an excellent 4th of July sermon from the text, "The powers that be, are ordained of God." He attributed our wicked rebellion to its proper cause, Slavery.

Tommy & Sammy are both taking naps this afternoon. Yesterday, I received a barrel of crushed sugar from Cairo, which John bought & sent us. Express cost \$5.00.

Sunday, July 10. Children have gone to S.S. I am going to church. I had 4 or 5 letters from John this week. The last was written on the 4th at La Grange. They had taken no baggage with them &, it is supposed, they are going out on some expedition. The 4th passed very quietly. Children had a bunch of firecrackers for their share. We have had some good rains, but the weather still keeps warm. Came home from church & found the-----boys here, sure enough. It is too bad that I cannot leave my children alone, but they must flock over. They use bad language, & Sammy, sometimes, repeats it. When John was at home last, I was out in the yard one day & Tommy & Sammy were in the corner of the yard, and Prater & the Morse boys, also, on their side, when down tumbled Barney Morse; I ran to him thinking, perhaps, he was badly hurt, and asking what threw him down. Tommy says, "Well, mother, he was swearing," I told him it was almost as bad for him to push Barney off the fence, as it was for Barney to swear & sent him in the

house. I, then, heard Prater say to him, "Now, Barn, that's what you get for cussin. If you hadn't been cussin, you wouldn't a got knocked off the fence. Now, if I hear you cussin agin, I'll

(1) Casabianca was "the boy" who "stood on the burning deck, Whence all but he had fled;" etc. by Mrs. Hemans.

-----". I did not hear the conclusion of this threat, but John laughed, heartily, when I related it to him; at the idea of Tommy & Prater constituting themselves a committee to regulate the morals and politics of the boys in our part of town. For we had seen Prater get one of them down, a few days before & pummel him until he made him "hurrah for the union" & let him up saying, "Now, let me hear you hurrah for Jeff Davis, again."

While we were at-----, Tommy went up to camp almost every day, & ran around freely among the _____ soldiers. He told me, one day when he came home, "that father's men swore, lots of them, for he heard them" the ones that carried the guns, but the ones that carried the swords didn't swear." His father was pleased to hear that he had formed that impression, whether it was correct or not, and he would be likely from that, to get the idea that it was more respectable not to swear than to do so. But, the child is ignorant of the fact, so far, that it is considered any more respectable to carry a sword than a gun. I think they, now, consider a gun the best weapon, of the two, for a soldier, but suppose they will get educated to the knowledge that most- people prefer the sword, when they go to war.

February 11, 1937

Carlinville, 1864

July 18. My birthday. I, this day, complete the 30th year of my life. It is awful warm. I can hardly exist, I feel so disagreeable, generally. But my greatest trouble is about John. I have not heard from him since the 4th & I am so restless & uneasy & haven't known what to do with myself. Mrs. Drish & Valentine took supper here on Fri. last week. They, too, are anxious about their husbands.

19th. The papers today contain extracts from Richmond papers saying that A.J. Smith has had a battle with the rebels at Pontotuc in Mississippi. So, I judge they are on the way to Mobile.

July 21. No letter, yet, from John, and no particulars from Smith expedition, except that he defeated the rebels.

It is so cold this evening, it is uncomfortable. Doors &

windows all closed.

July 24. And no word, yet, from John since the 4th. My patience is about exhausted. The children keep well & my general health is good, but have a multitude of disagreeable feelings.

July 27. I have just received a letter from John, written on the 21st at La Grange, where they had safely arrived after an absence of 15 days of hard marching & one hard fight in which Capt. Borough & 3 men were killed and nearly 40 wounded in the 122nd Reg. I am thankful to know that, he is safe & well, & to get a letter once more. It is cool & pleasant but we need rain, awfully.

In the afternoon Mother came, bringing Luther & Theodore and Ella and stayed until Sat. morning. Their visit was very unexpected but- very welcome. Luther Tommy went out to Uncle Peter's & stayed all night.

Sunday. Tommy & Sammy went to S.S. & Tommy is gone, now, to the church to sing. Sammy is trying to sleep. It is warm & no rain yet. Mr. & Mrs. Dugger took supper here Friday evening. Mother took supper at Geo. Wood's. I have had no letter from John since his of 21st. Had one from Lewis of 19th.

Aug. 6. Just returned from the funeral of Mayo's little Sammy, aged 8 months and a few days. He was a very pretty little boy with a very fine head, but was delicate. He was their only boy and the first death in the family. I am sorry for them, but they can comfort and console one another know nothing of the lonely feelings that we have, who are separated from one another, and know not but it is for life. But hope is still ours. We may live happy days together, yet. But, I do feel so lonely & desolate, so much of the time.

August 15. Tommy's birthday. I gave him 7 kisses & "Stories of Siberia" by Peter Parker.

Aug. 16. Mrs. Morgan washed here & Mr. Morgan took dinner here. He is 76 years old today.

Aug. 17. Had two letters from John since he has been at Holly Springs, the last dated Aug. 10th. They returned from Smith's expedition. Left Memphis again on the 7th of Aug.

Sun. Aug. 20. A real Indian Summer looking day. Cool & pleasant. I have such a headache & for a week past. Wake with a headache nearly every morning. Took another girl to try, expect, to find her more of a trial than a help, Lydia Hall.

I have had no letter from John since the 10th at Holly Springs. Aug. 25. Latest letter I had was dated at Waterford on the 17th. I have just been reading of the raid into Memphis by Forrest on the 21st, he having dodged Smith & left him at Oxford.

Sept. 4, 1864. Sunday. It has been awful warm for two or three days, but it is raining this evening. No letter from John, yet. Sherman is in Atlanta. Farragut- has taken

Forts Ganes (at the mouth of Mobile Bay, ADM) and Fort Morgan at Mobile.

Sept, 8, 1864. Thursday morning. Received a dispatch from John saying for Mrs. Drish & I to come to Cairo. We started on the next train, at 9. Reached St. Louis about 12. "Planters" full, so went to "Lindell". Saw Gen. Price & Rosecrans & heard them make short speeches. Price, being the Democratic candidate for Governor of Missouri. We slept an hour or two. Mrs. Drish, Burrington, myself & two children occupying one room. Started at six for Cairo which we reached after a warm & tiresome ride. We stayed at the "St.Charles" 4 days, until Tuesday evening. We occupied No. 4, next to the parlor, on first floor & opening on the balcony, so we were pleasantly situated. Children could see everything going on, and so were contented and very little trouble. Tuesday evening, we went on the "Arthur", a very nice boat & stayed all night. Next morning, John was relieved of command of brigade by the arrival of Col. Moore, senior officer, & we went on the "Monsoon" with the 122nd.

The river was low & we had a slow trip, tying up at night & thumping on the sand bars all night. But, it made no matter with me, how long. While the boat lay at Sulphur Springs, we went on shore & hunted up the springs, & tasted the stinking (sulphur. ADM 1994.) water, and covered ourselves with dust, and got good appetites, climbing up the hill. The landing is on rock & sand, no mud.

The soldiers were unloaded at Jefferson Barracks on Sat. and, after eating dinner on the "Longworth" (3rd Division, Col. Shaw Headquarters), we went on the "Des Moines", another transport to St. Louis. Put up at the Everett (or is it Ennet..J.J.A. 1937) House, room first floor front. Had best cookery we have found any where. Took a walk with the money that the Officers gave him on his birthday on the boat, and one pr. garters, \$6.00. Sunday, 3 o'clock, we started home & John & Drish came with us. We arrived at 8 last night and this morning 19th, they left, again. Frost last night. I hate to be left alone, again. Mrs. Mayo, Dugger & Miss Gilbert, called. But I am so sleepy, I must quit.

Sept. 25, 1864. Sunday, nice, cool & clear. Had some rain Friday night. Had a letter from John yesterday. He has been sick since I saw him. That miserable diarrhea, when it once gets hold of a soldier, it hardly ever leaves go. I am very uneasy about him, wish he could come home to stay.

February 18, 1937

I (Judith Jordan Anderson, compiler) am interrupting the continuity of Mrs. John I. Rinaker's diary, to insert a description of the battle of Parker's Cross Roads, in the words of the late Captain A. C. Hulse, one time sheriff of

Macoupin County. (Captain Hulse was related to the late Mark Mayfield. EJD 1994)

On the night of December 27th, 1862, at 11:30 o'clock, nine companies of the 122nd Regiment, Illinois Infantry Volunteers, numbering 527 men commanded by Colonel John I. Rinaker; the 50th Indiana Regiment Infantry Volunteers, number of officers and men 525, Lieutenant Colonel Wells commanding; the 39th Iowa Inft. Vol., Regiment commanded by H. J. B. Cummings, number of men & officers 405; the 7th Tennessee Inft. Vol., commanpieces of artillery of the Wisconsin Battery; 50 men from the 18th Illinois Inft. Vol.; mounted number in all, 1,800 men constituting the 3rd Brigade commanded by Colonel Cyrus T. Dunham of the 50th Indiana, moved out of Trenton, Tennessee.

The next day, the Ohio Brigade, Colonel Fuller commanding, with the remainder of the 7th Wisconsin Battery, followed us. It, numbering near 2,000 men. We marched to Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tenn., where we arrived on the evening of the 29th. We marched with the Brigade from Huntingdon at noon on the 30th of December and reached Clarksburg on the night of the same day. Distance Huntingdon to Clarksburg, 12 miles.

On the morning of December 31st, 1862, we moved forward at about daylight at quick time, south toward Lexington, Henderson County, 6 miles south of Clarksburg, then to Parker's Cross Roads—8 o'clock a.m. Skirmishing commenced and our advance Brigade, the 50th Indiana, under command of Lt. Col. Wells, met General Forrest's advance picket line and had quite a skirmish of one hour or more. They drove the rebels back across west of the Lexington Road into the brush.

At 8:30 or 9 o'clock, Col. Rinaker suggested to Col. Dunham, the Brigade Commander, that we move 1/2 mile south, 1/4 mile east, 1/4 mile north. This, Col. Dunham assented to. We, then, formed our first line of battle, by filing into line 30 or 40 yards south of a fence which was on the south side of a cotton field. The 50th Indiana Inft. Vol. were on the right, the 122nd Ill. Inft. Vol., in the center and the 39th Iowa on the left. This was near 9:30 a.m. Then, the battle commenced all along our line. At 10:30 a.m., the rebels had succeeded in planting 10 or 12 pieces of artillery in our front, distant from 300 to 400 yards. At this time, it looked like the 122nd Ill. was compelled to stand the brunt of the fight with all the rebel guns, 10 or 12 in number, playing on the center of the 122nd Illinois.

The grape and canister and solid shot flew thick and fast. In one hour and 16 minutes, the 122nd, numbering officers and men all told, 527, lost 23 killed and 92 wounded. At 11:30 Col. Rinaker ordered, "Cease firing!" We did,

for 10 or 15 minutes, as it was getting dark from the smoke of our guns. Then, the smoke blew away and firing commenced. About this time, Col. Rinaker saw a body of rebels going around on the west of us. He called Lieutenant Col. Drish's attention to this matter and said, "They are going around to get in our rear." Which proved true.

At about 12 a.m., Rinaker received a gun shot from a rebel gun, which stopped him, at once, as he was shot through the right leg just under the knee. Lt. Col. Drish tied a small cord around Rinaker's leg, above his knee and stopped the flow, as blood was spurting from both sides of his leg. Col. Rinaker was sitting or leaning against a tree. A rebel bullet hit Lt. Col. Drish's cap. He, Drish, looked and saw the rebels coming, 3 or 400 yards away, and said to Col. Rinaker, "Col., the rebels are coming in our rear, what must I do?" Rinaker ordered Drish to about face and charge bayonettes.

Lt. Col. Drish mounted his horse and gave the command, "About face! Charge bayonettes!" I, Lieutenant A. C. Hulse, repeated the command, which it was my duty to do, at this time. Col. Rinaker called Drish and said, "Don't you let my Regiment get captured." At this time, I stepped to the front and yelled at the top of my voice, "Come on! Come on! Come on boys!" Then, the 122nd Ill. Inft. Vol. Regiment, started on its death struggle for victory or death, and it resulted in victory. Again, I went to center of companies D, C, H, E, K, & F, these were the center companies of the 122nd, when the charge started, and again, yelled, "Come on boys!"

After advancing 40 or 50 yards, I was encountered by my Brigade commander, Col. Dunham, who had come down from the right or east of our Brigade. Then, Lt. A. Foot, bareheaded, hat in hand and in a loud command, ordered me and my command to halt. Col. Dunham was my Brigade Commander and he called us damned cowards and said we were running. He said to me, "I will cut your damn head off." I said to him, "Col., you damned drunken pup, look south! or I will shoot your head off! Go on! Get out of our way!" He looked and saw the rebels coming. "Go for them!" he said, "Shoot low and stop the breed," He, then, went toward the 39th Iowa. This was the last I saw of him that day.

A panic started on our right in the 39th Iowa Regiment and near 200 men of the 39th came running to us when we had advanced to near 75 yards of the Rebel Brigade, commanded by Col. Knapper, Gen. Forrest's most trusted officer. Time, 1 o'clock. I must say, here, for the 39th Iowa boys: I ordered them to fall in line with the 122nd, which they did, cheerfully, and fought equally well as my own men and helped the 122nd Ill. win the battle of Parker's Cross Roads and I give them equal credit with the 122nd in being present when the last gun was fired. When our 122nd

Regiment advanced to within 30 or 40 yards of the enemy, we saw Col. Knapper lying dead and several of his comrades, also, dead. They had been caught in front of our charging parties.

Just at this time, a rebel sharpshooter from a tree about 30 feet from me, shot the plume or feathers out of my hat. When I was about 25 feet from him, he shot through my boot leg, just above my ankle. His third shot went through my haversack. I was within 10 or 12 feet of the sharpshooter when he showed his left breast from behind the tree. Sergeant Thos. L. Evans of my company E of 122nd Ill. Inft. shot him in the heart. He fell dead. This shot probably saved my life. I promoted Evans to 2nd Sergeant for that shot. Time 1:30 o'clock.

Near 2 o'clock, I had picked up the plume or feather and put it in my pocket. At this time, I thought of the Indian who shot 17 times at George Washington from behind a log, then, laid down his gun and said there are no bullets run (molded) for that man. This was in the Revolutionary War.

I, then, said to myself, there are no bullets run for me in this fight. This thought took all the scare out of me. At this time, we were getting close to the rebels. Lt. Col. Drish demanded a surrender. I repeated the command of Col. Drish at the top of my voice. This the rebels did. We captured 381 prisoners and 4 pieces of artillery.

At this time, Lt. Col. Drish rode through our lines and through the rebel lines 30 or 40 yards away. Up on a rise of ground, 8 or 10 feet high, he took his field glass and saw more rebels coming. He called to me and said, "Lieutenant, get ready for a cavalry charge." I did so and gave the command to left half, "Wheel and Halt!" Lt. Col. Drish ordered me to hold; he would tell me when to fire. I stood in front of my command of 500 or 600 men of the 122nd Ill. and the 39th Iowa until the rebels got near 75 yards of us. Lt. Col. Drish commanded, "Fire!" I ordered, "Fire!" we gave them 2 to----- volleys. A good many of the rebels were knocked out of their saddles and they about faced and went toward the Tennessee River and I say, before God and man, this was the last gun fired in that battle of Parker's Cross Roads.

Lt. Col. James F. Drish, then, reformed the 122nd Ill. Inft. Volunteers' Regiment and we marched back to camp on the ground where the hard part of the battle was fought. As we went back, we met our game, Col. John I. Rinaker, following us up, in an old spring covered wagon. I went up to Col. Rinaker and said, "Col. how are you?" He said, "All right, how are you, Lieutenant?" I said, "Good." The Colonel said to me, "There goes Col. Fuller of the Ohio Brigade. Col. Fuller said he was sorry that, through the genius for tardiness exhibited by Gen. Sullivan, he had not gotten to their relief in time to do them any good. "I never fired a gun," he said.

Near 4 o'clock p.m., Dec. 31, 1862, the 200 or 300 39th Iowans, who had helped the 122nd through the fight went back to their Regiment feeling good, because they had proved themselves good, game soldiers.

February 25, 1937 (To continue with C. K. Rinaker Diary ADM)

Oct. 2d, 1864. Sunday. Have had only one letter from John this week, but it is such a good one. I don't know where they are now. Some where in Missouri, tramping around after that miserable rebel, Price, Sterling Price. Uncle Peter & his folks have been in town this week, being Court week. Thomas is drafted. Cousin Frank Kep, too, is drafted. He had just started to school in Bloomington.

Friday evening, I went with the children & Ellen Kep to hear Oglesby & (John M.) Palmer speak at the Court House. I liked the looks of Oglesby, plain, sensible, self-made looking man. But, has one fault, so many speakers have, of using profane language, and taking the name of God in vain in his speeches, which is very painful to me, to hear.

We had plenty of rain lately. Tommy went to market in the rain yesterday morning. He is rather young to send, but it seems I must & he is trusty.

The draft has proceeded, quietly, so far. Atlanta taken by Sherman. Early defeated by Sheridan. Fremont retired from the Presidential contest in favor of Lincoln. I think the latter will, surely, be elected & that we shall soon dictate peace on our terms to the conquered south. And the main one of those being the entire abolition of slavery, we may hope for lasting internal peace & a great future for our country.

I received 12 photographs, a few days ago, of John, from the artist at Cairo. I do not think they are as good as the large size.

Thursday. The children & I went to the Co. fair, but, as I had not heard a word from John since Mon., of course, I was not in a very good state to enjoy the day. We rode in Jo Dugger's carriage, came home in hack to the square & had to walk rest of the way. Although, I was so tired I could hardly walk. Children not very well. Dr. Webster promised to come to see them in the evening, so I waited 'til 8 o'clock, when, who should come, but John, with Dr. Matthews (father of the late Ina Matthews Snell, who was the wife of Judge Truman A. Snell. ADM 1994) who had brought him, in his buggy, from the depot. He was very sick all night. High fever, bad diarrhea & stomach too weak to take anything. Very poor & thin.

Oct. 16. Sunday. Beautiful Indian Summer day. John is much better. He only needs to stay at home and have me take care of him, to get well. But, he is so thin & weak, I fear he will soon be as bad as ever, when he goes back to the Hospital & the regiment.

Mrs. Susan Woods called here, yesterday, also, Lieut. Valentine. Sam Gilbert, Geo. Hamilton, & Keller & Woodward came today. Fanny Wright, yesterday, & her Mother, today. It is just nine years today, since we were married. We both feel a little older than we did then. John, especially, looks 5 years older, since he has been in the army. But, we are still happy in each others love, thankful for the good we have and only ask that the future of our married life may be as pleasant as the past. We have two of the best little boys, not perfect, of course, but, as nearly so, as boys ought to get to be, without endangering health & usefulness. Tommy & Sammy have had diarrhea, more or less, ever since we were at Cairo last, & finally, Tommy had two chills, so we had to get them medicine & I hope, now, they will keep well.

How I do wish John could stay at home with us. Alec Van Winkle is at home & out of the service.

Oct. 18. Tuesday morning early, John left, us, again, for the Hospital. If he does not get well enough to go to the regiment, soon, he will try to get a leave of absence & come home to stay awhile.

21st. Had a letter from John saying he continues about the same in health.

Oct. 23rd. Sunday. Went to church to hear Fletcher Short preach, the democratic McClellan preacher, that some of the good democratic brethren asked to be sent here—much inferior man to McC. but, if more useful to a majority of the people, I suppose it is right he should be sent here.

Oct. 30. Tommy went to S. School this morning. He had not gone for a good many Sundays. Has had such a diarrhea & 3 chills, but, I think is getting well now. I am teaching him, at home. He reads in second Sanders speller & has reached Division, in "Davies Primary Arithmetic". I think he is learning as rapidly as he ought. He is troubled, frequently, with a kind of nervous headache & back ache, when he sits still long, at a time, though he has a very healthy, indeed, a beautiful, clear complexion & good color, & eyes look bright. I think it best, he should be free from books, only just the time he is absolutely engaged in getting & reciting his lessons, which is not. two hours, I think, a day. We went to church today—small congregation.

John is still in the hospital at Jefferson Barracks. His last letter was dated 27th & he is not any better. Wish he was at home.

Nov. 3. A terribly rainy time ending in a heavy snow, on top of mud and slush, & at night, when I hoped John was snug in bed somewhere, here he came, looking almost like a ghost. Of course, I go to work, at once, to feed & nurse him up, again.

Nov. 6. The children both go to S.S. & John & I go to church, although he is hardly able to go, & fears he will have to leave before service is over.

Nov. 8. Election day & awful rainy & very warm, but, in the afternoon, John went up to vote & took Tommy along

to see how they do. Sammy & I ran over to Mr. Duggers awhile.

Rain, thunder & lightning all night.

Nov. 10. Republicans carried the day almost every where. Lincoln & Oglesby elected. McClellan will not have more than one or two states, at most. Democratic party had, just as well consent, now, to be decently interred. It has been weighed in the balance & found wanting.

We took dinner today at Mr. Duggers. Sammy went up town with his father & is now strutting around in his "first boots".

Sammy & Tommy are busy playing on the floor & John is reading in "Heroditus" & I sat down to answer mother's letter, but am scribbling here, now.

March 4, 1937

Carlinville, Illinois 1864

Nov. 13. Sunday evening, nice & clear. Children went to S. School this morning. None of us went to church, but we propose to all go to-night to the S. S. concert where Palmer is to make an address.

Judge Solomon was here, a few minutes ago, to get John to swear in three recruits. I cannot help feeling that it is mean in that hoary headed, old democrat, who has said & done all he could against the war, to, now, be persuading boys of 18 & 20 into the army to diminish the chances of some democrat being drafted. I say, draft, & don't buy or persuade boys to go.

Great disappointment. Concert was put off until next Sunday night.

Nov. 20. Children went to S. School, 7 at night, we all went to the church to the S.S. concert, expecting to hear Palmer speak, but we were disappointed in not hearing him, after all. Rev. Mr. French spoke, & Col. Logan made a few most excellent remarks.

Nov. 21st-. Monday morning early, John went back to St. Louis. He is somewhat better than when he came home, but, not well, by a great deal. The regiment is in St. Louis, but will go south, soon.

Nov. 24. Thanksgiving day. Sammy & I went to church. Tommy stayed at home, and the girl. Short preached, that is, read a discourse, & took up a collection for the benefit of the poor, instead of for the soldiers, as was, generally, expected it would be.

'Tis a beautiful, nice, warm day after such very cold weather as we have been having, the first part of the week.

25 th. Went to the "Old Folks Concert" with Mr. and Mrs. Dugger.

Nov. 26. I took the children up town to have some photographs taken of them. I think they will be pretty good

ones.

Nov. 27. Children went to S. School. None of us went to church. Uncle Peter was here for dinner. He starts to Vicksburg to-morrow, to see his son, John, who is in the Hospital.

Dec. 4, 1864. Sunday, nice, sunny day, but cold. Children went to S.S. I have stayed at home all day & got dinner & washed dishes, as the girl has gone out visiting, somewhere. I had Tommy, just now, taking some salts. He made awful, wry faces over it, and said, "Sammy, I wish you would taste some of that and try it." But, Sammy said, "Tommy, I believe you! I b'lieve its just the baddest stuff." He was cunning enough to take Tommy's word & not taste for himself.

John was still in St. Louis when I last heard from him. Regiment was at Nashville.

Dec. 11. Sunday. Very cold. We have stayed at home all day. I had three fires to make & breakfast to get, this morning, as the girl left yesterday, being sick with something like rheumatism. John is still in St. Louis. My last letters, instead of going to him, have been going to the regiment, which is very provoking, indeed. Friday was the last day of Bettie Palmer's school & Sammy went with Tommy in the afternoon. Tommy had a little speech, "Our Country stands, etc." Yesterday afternoon, they went to Mayo's pond with Palmer & Mayo children & reported themselves as having a good time on the ice, not excepting a number of bad falls.

Dec. 17. Sat. Morning, sent the children to the Post Office, hoping to get a letter from John, when they came back in great glee, "no letter, but father, himself, has come." He was relieved from Court Martial duty & ordered to report to Louisville, Ky. We had the pleasantest kind of a time.

Dec. 13th. John is gone, again. Left this morning about 10. It is so lonesome here, now. He brought me an 8 dollar album & \$5.00 set of teaspoons from St. Louis. He went to St. Louis this morning to take the cars for Cincinnati. I hope he will be able to get on court martial at Louisville & get a furlough to come home the "last of February." It is hard to do without him, now, but there is no help for it.

Christmas day. Rainy, foggy, Sunday. Tommy went to S. School. I got dinner, roasted a chicken, baked a pie, & a cake. Children found St. Nicholas did not forget them last night. Their stockings were filled and more, besides. Sammy was very impatient for the time to come. He proposed to go to bed in the middle of the afternoon, yesterday, as he couldn't wait, scarcely, for night to get his stocking up. They express themselves perfectly satisfied with old Nicholas & have been busy all day playing & Tommy reading the books. "Cinderella" is one of them, "Fox & Geese", the other. I had a letter from John on yesterday, written at Louisville on the 21st.

New Years Day, 1865. Another year gone by. A terrible burning of gunpowder, all through the night announced the departure of the Old & the coming of the New. He does not come in so stormily, as he did last year, but it is clear, frosty & fine as New Year's eve could be. I, and my two boys, are, still, entirely alone. We took a good bath last-night & commenced the year in clean skin & clothes. The boys went to S. School & Tommy wishes to go to the church at three to sing, in preparation for their Annual Festival, Tuesday night.

My last letter from John was dated 27th at Louisville, but he expected to leave for Nashville next day. I had letter this week from Henrietta, written on Christmas day, filled with extravagant praises of her baby.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 1865. Tommy went to S. School. Very pleasant day. We have had most beautiful weather, ever since the new year came in. Mrs. Dugger came in to see us a few minutes this evening. We are all alone, that is children and myself.

I signed deed, yesterday, selling lots in Gillespie owned by John & Haley. Received letter from John on Friday dated 31st Dec. & 2nd Jan. first mailed at Smittsland & second at Paducah. He was on his way, by boat, from Nashville to Eastport, hoping to meet with the regiment there. They are in pursuit of Hood, but he has already crossed the Tennessee & I think they had as well give up the chase.

March 11, 1937

Jan. 15, 1865. Sunday. Tommy went to S. School & we stayed at home all the rest of the day. We have very moderate winter weather this year, so far.

Tommy has been going to school two weeks to Miss Fanny Woods. He was not at all pleased, at first, but seems to like it better now. I think he learns quite as fast as he ought, for the good of his health, having backache and headache very often. Had a letter from John yesterday. He is at Eastport, Miss., in command of 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, Detachment of army of the Tenn., under Gen. A.J. Smith. I keep very well, which is a great blessing, for I cannot hear of girl to hire.

John brought me a beautiful eight dollar Album when he came home last. He, also, brought "Hiawatha" which I read, through, to the children, & Irving's "Knickerbocker, History of N.Y.", some parts of which amused Tommy very much, & "Gil Blas", which I am reading now, but do not like much, the spirit of it, not at all.

Jan. 22d. Sunday. Slight snow & pretty cold. Tommy went to S. School. We stayed at home the rest

of the day. I felt very poorly, yesterday & last night. I ought to have a girl to do the work, but, I think I must have offended the fraternity of "hired girls", for I can't so much as see one, any more. I have not a letter from John, now, of later date than the 9th. Henrietta wrote to me on Christmas day & I answered it on New Year's day & I have not heard from her since. I wrote to mother before Christmas & have not had a line from her. I think, it as little as they could do, to write to me, when they know the condition I am in. I begin to feel like a neglected object, sure enough. If it was not for my two good, little boys, I don't know what would become of me. Tommy is a jewel for his age. He goes to market & the P. Office, & does all manner of errands, carries in all the wood, brings the milk, & goes to school, besides, & learns, too.

Sunday. Jan. 29, 1865. Nice day, weather is more moderate than it was two or three days ago. Tommy & Sammy went to S. School this morning. I received a letter from John yesterday, dated 20th, still at Eastport, & has some better health. Had letters, also, this week from Henrietta & Hardin.

Feb. 5, 1865. Sunday. Nice, bright, day. Tommy went to S. School. I have had no letter from John of later date than 20th Jan. I hear that they are going to Mobile. I am sorry for it, as John will not, then, be at home the last of this month, as I had hoped, but if his life is spared to come safe in Sept., I ought to complain of nothing, and will, truly, be thankful, no matter how else things may go. We keep pretty well, for which I ought, to be thankful, as it seems impossible for me to get hired help. I had letter from mother this week.

Feb. 12th. Tommy & Sammy went to S. School. I have a girl, at last. Hannah Ashton came on Wednesday & will stay until I can get an older one. My last letter from John was dated at Eastport, Feb. 1st. Another co. of volunteers started from here a few days ago. Enlisted for one year & get. very high bounties.

Feb. 19th. Bright Sunday morning, but awful muddy. Children gone to S. School, & girl gone home to go to church. Last letter from John was written on the boat "Resere" at Cairo, on the 11th. They were on their way to N. Orleans, Mobile or somewhere in that direction. I feel so badly that they are going so far away, so far south, & John feels very badly that he cannot be with me, for a few weeks to come, but I care very little for that, in comparison with my anxiety for him to get back safely when his time expires. I can do some way, although things do look gloomy, sometimes, but I think it will not be long now that I will have to wait, & then, perhaps sometime, I will be strong enough to not feel quite so helpless & dependent. I have lived on will & resolution for some time. I've felt,

for some days, as if I was giving way & could hold out no longer, but must try.

Feb. 26. Sunday. Tommy, Sammy & girl went to S. School. We have had much rain of late. The last letter I had from John was 15th at Vicksburg. I had one this week from Lewis, Jan. 28, in south Carolina. I suppose he is now in Charleston. Sherman is there.

Mar. 11. Sunday. and what a gloomy day it has been for me. My eyes have hardly been dry to-day. Weary, weary, am I in mind, and body. Will I ever get relief. Perhaps, only in the grave. Then, Lord have mercy on my soul, & keep and comfort my poor little boys & my dear, dear husband. Oh, if I could only have John with me these long, weary days & nights. I almost fear that he, now, will doubt my truth, and cease to love me, any more. O heaven, I had better (here a page was torn out with the words on the margin-"How silly of me!" C.K.R. 1916)

Next page begins: And please to claim Papa & mother for your parents, always, when I am gone, & the rest of the family, for brothers & sisters. And, if Providence decrees that we shall not meet & be happy in our home here, when your time is out, we will just have to set the time of our reunion a little further off, and the place, a more permanent home, above. (Another comment on the margin: I tore leaf out, too dreadfully dismal.-C.K.R.)

(I was troubled, unnecessarily, about date of expected birth. I was not as wise, on such matters, as women seem to be, now-a-days. I was mistaken, only. And all came out right. And both proud of the boy. Have almost special feeling for him, on account of the strain we both went through on his account. C.K.R. 1916)

Mar. 29. It has been a long time since I wrote any here. I feel in some better heart, than I did, then. On the 15th inst., I felt so badly in the evening that I went to bed at six & soon feeling much worse. Mrs. Dugger & Woodward & Mayo, and then, Dr. Easley came & about 11 o'clock, a little boy was born, whom I named, immediately, John Irving, & today, he is two weeks old, growing & healthy. I had written a very despairing letter to John that day, but, next morning, wrote a few lines more, in pencil, telling him the news, & by this time, he, surely, has heard it. My last from him was dated Mar. 16 at Dauphin Island, in the Gulf, south of Alabama, & they expected to attack the enemy, soon. I am so anxious to hear from him since the 20th. It seemed to me that he was in danger that, day, but I felt, last evening, that, he was still alive & thinking of me. The neighbors have been very good to us. I had Granma Wunderlich for nurse for me & baby & Henrietta Bartles to do the work down stairs. Paid G'ranma \$5.50 for 11 days & Henrietta 1.75 a week. I am down stairs this morning for the first, time. I have a cold, am hoarse & cough. It is rainy, but warm. Black birds are holding animated concerts. Robins, bluebirds & wrens

are all on hand, ready for spring opening, in the building line.

March 18, 1937

Carlinville. 1865

April 10. And cannons are booming, bells ringings, & buildings illuminated, in honor of the Union occupation of Richmond & the surrender of Lee & his army to Grant, or as our friends of the Chicago Platform would express it, "to celebrate the conclusion of our '4 years failure to conquer the confederates by force of arms.'" Wonder if they would not be glad to-night, to unsay that little saying, if they could.

And now, the Confederacy has gone up, it will soon be almost denied that such a thing ever existed, and no one will be found in the north "soon enough" to own they ever favored it. Thank the Lord, the world still moves & slavery must & has gone under, along with other worn out barbarisms. The Lord does reign & rule over the nations, and lifts up and casts down, punishes national sins, & cares for his children when they cry, even if they be slaves & their skin is black.

The struggle, now, is at Mobile. Oh how anxious I am to hear from there. My last from John was dated Mar 24 & since then, the 16 corps has been engaged in the attack on Fort Spanish, one of the defenses of Mobile. Many have been killed & wounded, already. How I hope that John or Hardin will not be included in that number. To-days paper stated that "one Colonel" was killed, both horse & rider blown to atoms, by one of the torpedoes, that the rebels have placed all around the forts, buried in the sand. If that Colonel should prove to be mine, I would be wired, indeed. But, there he is, somebody's, & many a one besides myself waits so anxiously, & fearfully, to hear the name, & somebody's heart, must bleed. Lord, help whoever the blow falls on. Help us to be thankful, as we ought, for the prospect that our war will soon be over, the hard fought, victory won. Peace, blessed peace, we will know as we never did before, how to appreciate it, and, none the less so, because it is an honorable peace, fairly fought & dearly bought, without the surrender of a single principle that would lessen its value.

Tommy & Sammy & the girl have gone up town to-night with Mr. and Mrs. Dugger to see & hear the jollifications. Baby sleeps in the crib & I am alone. I hear the shooting & see the illumination up town, & hear a deepmouthed cannon in the direction of Litchfield, and keeps coming into my mind the saying of the Chicago Convention, "after four

years of failure of war." And the four years are not quite closed, yet, & to-night, all the land is mad with joy over its success, 2, our haughty southerners are forced to bend their proud necks & submit to have Abe Lincoln, the "rail splitter" for their President for four years to come. Oh what a triumph of right, & truth & justice.

April 13. Warm & pleasant, but threatens rain. Good Friday to-day. I received a letter from John dated Mar. 29 at Fort Spanish near Mobile, also, one from Hardin from the same place.

Apr. 15. The baby weighed 12 lbs. this morning. Today's paper contains the news of the shooting of President Lincoln last night at a Theatre in Washington, and his subsequent death. Oh, what a disgrace to our nation, after passing through four years of rebellion & civil war without a single case of assassination, that our cup of Peace should be bittered by that, now.

Apr. 19. Being the day devoted to the funeral obsequies of President Lincoln, it was observed by the churches throughout the land, here among others, by the different congregations meeting at the Methodist Church. Soule, the Presbyterian minister, preaching a sermon from the text, "Be still & know that I am God." Short & Dresser (Priest, in charge of St. Paul's Episcopal Church on South Broad Street. ADM 1994) assisting in the services, which were quiet & simple. A portrait of Lincoln hung behind the pulpit, under two flags crossed, all draped in crepe. The church was filled to overflowing & some could not obtain seats, at all.

Fort Blakely was taken by assault, & Fort Spanish was taken with 5,000 prisoners and many guns, and our forces occupied Mobile on the 10th. Montgomery had, previously, been taken, so that, now, only two rebel state capitals are left, Texas & Florida. The seceders have been fairly conquered, whether they will, gracefully, yield, or carry on a sullen, barbarous guerrilla war, remains to be seen. At last, the day of mercy for them is past. Since the Murder of Lincoln & the intention to assassinate, at the same time, all leading men at Washington, has become known over the country, it has checked the disposition to be forgiving, which all seemed to feel, at least until they have, humbly, begged to be forgiven.

My last letter from John was dated Apr. 5th. I am so anxious to hear now, whether he & Hardin have come, safely, through the capture of Blakely & Mobile.

I went to church to-day, the first time I have been out of the yard. Baby is five weeks old to-day & doing finely.

Apr. 23d. Sunday. To-day the remains of President Lincoln rest in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on their way to Springfield for burial.

On the 14th, Gen. Anderson raised the old flag over the ruins of Fort Sumter, which he hauled down 4 years before.

Last night, we had a hard frost & freeze, which, doubtless, killed all the fruit. Yesterday morning the ground was white with a light snow. Yesterday received a letter from John dated Mar. 25th. 'Tis bright & sunny this morning & children have gone to S. School, except Johnny, who says in baby language, I must stop writing & take him out of his crib.

Apr. 30. Rainy, rainy Sunday. Tommy went to S. School, but I am having the backache too badly to go any where, although I did go up town yesterday, being compelled, almost, to do so. I have had no letter from John later than the 6th, but heard he was safe & well. Baby was sick one day & night, this week, but is well, now, & laughing out to-day.

The assassin, Booth, was shot resisting arrest. Johnson's army surrendered to Grant & I suppose we will, surely, have peace, soon.

President Lincoln will be buried next Thursday at Springfield, on the Mathis property. (He was buried at Oak ridge Cemetery.)

March 25, 1937

May 7, 1865. Sunday. Very bright, pleasant day after another rain. Children went to S. School. Sammy & I went to church. I took a walk with the children to the graveyard, carrying the baby I, also, wrote 4 letters to Mother & Hardin & Lewis (Clarissa K. Rinaker's brothers. ADM) & John. My last from John was dated April 12th. He commanded the 1st Brigade, 2d Division 16th A. C. at the taking of Fort Blakely. The brigade captured 10 guns, artillery, 2 mortars, 520 prisoners, 37 of whom were commissioned officers, two being Brigadiers, who surrendered to John. One was commander of the fort & the other second in command. They had a terribly rough charge, over swamps, tree tops & abattis. No going on horse-back. John says he only fell down once.

We finished our housecleaning, yesterday, but, I have done nothing to my flower beds, yet. Myself & children keep very well.

May 14th. Sunday. Weed growing weather after more rain last night. Children went to S. School. Tommy is reading "Headly's Rebellion". He read "The Child's Rebellion", and read "Hiawatha" in 2 or three days time, he liked it so much. I fear I shall never be able to take as much pains teaching Sammy as I have Tommy. There is quite a difference, I find, between one & three. It is so long, now, since I had a letter from John, last was dated Apr. 12. I hope he will be at home soon.

May 21st. Beautiful morning, but promising a very hot day. Children gone to S. School. Baby & I at home. I meant to have gone to church, but he seems almost sick with cough & cold, & I am afraid to leave him with the girl. Mounts

finished putting in the book case, Friday. His charge is 28 dollars. Brown is to paint it. I finished planting flower seeds this week & corn in the garden. Roses are in bloom, that is, the four earliest kinds.

My last letter from John was dated 28 & 29th of last month at Montgomery, Ala.

May 28. Beautiful Sunday. Children went to S. School & Tommy & I went to church. Downer preached on family prayer, & John Anderson & Jinny Ramey were married after service.

I went up town yesterday morning, & bought me a parasol for \$4.50 and a small rocking chair \$2.50 & baby carriage for \$8.00.

I have had no letter from John this week. Tommy has gone to the church to the singing, preparing for the Union picnic next Friday.

29th. Received two letters from John, & Tommy, one. Latest date 12th, still at Montgomery, Ala.

June 1st. National fast day for the death of Lincoln. Sammy & I went to the Methodist church. Small congregation. Mr. Soule preached.

June 2nd. Friday. Children all gone to the picnic & I was lonesome, but kept very busy all day. It was a union of all the schools, the day fine & they seem to have enjoyed it, although it was so far off.

I received a letter from John dated 20th from Montgomery, Ala.

3rd. Received letter from Lewis at Washington. He thinks some of resigning & coming home.

June 11. Children went to S. School, & I went to church. I had two letters from John during the last week. The last dated May 25th, 1865. Still at Montgomery, Ala. I feel for them this hot weather, lying in camp with nothing to do, & so anxious to come home.

I gave each of the children 50 cts to give in S. School towards the Lincoln monument.

June 18, 1865. Tommy has been sick for a day or two & he & Sammy are both taking medicine from Easley. So, they did not go to S. School this morning. The first time Tommy has been absent this year. Johnny is well. I had such bad dreams last night that I did not rest well. Last letter I had from John was dated the 7th at Mobile.

Had letter from Henrietta dated 5th at-----Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. She has been sick & is dissatisfied, generally.

July 2nd. Sunday. Children went to S. School. Tommy & I went to church. Downer preached, small congregation. Last letter I had from John was dated June 19 at Mobile. I am so tired waiting for him to come, that I think we will try & go to Morgan. Johnny grows finely.

July 4th. In the afternoon, I took all the children & went out to the picnic at the College Park, and was very silly to do so, for we almost burned up, & stifled with dust, and had much better been at home, anyhow, with my

baby. I had to stop at Borings and wait for the crowd to pass by, & Mr. Boring was very sick, too.

But, night came, finally. The moon shone too bright for the fireworks to show to advantage. Next day, we washed & ironed, and on Thursday 6th went to the depot, & took the cars for Auburn. Arrived about 11. Took dinner, & left at one, in the hack for Waverly, which we reached at nearly 4, & found Papa & Alice waiting for us. Aunt Katy not at home. We reached home (Papa's.) by supper time, & there we stayed three weeks & a half. I went to church on Sunday. Hamilton preached Rick Wyatt's wife's funeral. Sammy had the chicken pox while there, & I had sore eyes for two weeks. Children enjoyed themselves finely. Johnny learned to sit alone. I visited at Uncle John's twice, Slack's once. The two or three first days were warm, then, it turned very cool and rained, tremendously, for more than two weeks, spoiling quantities of wheat, oats, & hay for the farmers & getting the roads in an awful condition, as we found to our cost, when we went in a big wagon to Auburn, and mud so deep & stiff, the horses could only pull through by stopping, often, to rest, & driving in water for more than a quarter of a mile at a time.

But, we reached Auburn at noon, got dinner & waited 'til sundown before the train came along. Alice came with us to stay a month or so. As we were getting on, at Auburn, I saw Lt. Chiles, Lt. McKnight & Jesse Underkoeffler, & learned, for the first time, that the 122d had reached Springfield that morning, 29th & they handed me a letter from John saying he would not be at home until they were discharged & paid, in a day or two.

So, we came on to the depot & had to walk up & carry Johnny, though Mr. Dugger saw us on the square & helped carry him part of the way. We stopped at Mr. Duggers & rested a short time, & came home & stayed all night, & to-day, I have been so sore & stiff & tired, & baby seems to be sore, too, & poor, fellow, I have no doubt, he is. We could not have gone to church, if we had felt like it, for our trunk is yet at the depot. I found 4 letters from John & a peck of papers in the P.O. And O how happy, happy I am that the 122d is, indeed, at home, that 24 hours will probably find John right here, safe & well & out of the army, a free man, once more, and best of all, come as conquerors on the side of right. To a Kind Providence be all the praise, for the safety of husband & brother through all the perils of the war. But, I am afraid I am not thankful, as I ought to be. It seems I cannot be, as much as it requires.

After looking for John every time the Springfield train came in, all the week, he, finally, came on Friday evening, Aug. 4th, their time lacking just one month of being out. I can hardly realize, yet, that he really is at home, to stay. To-day, Sunday, John & I went to church.

Alice, Tommy & Sammy went to Sunday School. We took a long walk this evening & John has not been up town to-day, & best of all, he has prayers with us every evening. Not that he has been a saint while in the army, but, in token of recognition of the goodness of Divine Providence, which has united us, again, after so many perils. I know it was a great cross for him, but, am so glad he had the resolution to take it up, and any one who has faced the chances of death on the battle field, during three years service ought to have the courage to do that much for the right, for the benefit of his own soul & good of his family. May we all abound in all good practices.

George Francis Jordan To John I Rinaker Circa March/April
1905 Carlinville, Illinois

General John I.
Rinaker Eustis,
Florida.

My Dear General:--

I have been wanting to write you for some time--not that I have any news to impart--but on general principles, and now that I have a breathing spell shall afflict you with a bit of Illinois verbal hash.

Since the middle of January I have been pretty busy. I improved an opportunity of a trip to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and a visit with an elder brother's boys and widow. And being so near Kansas, crossed the State of Nebraska and for a few days frolicked around my old Kansas home in Nemaha county, renewing many old, cherished acquaintances, and altogether had a splendid time. It was bitter cold in the Dakotas. The ground was covered with snow, and had been since early in December. Twenty-seven inch ice was being cut from the Big Sioux River. All vehicles, save truck wagons, were on runners. That Swedish sport, "skiing", or however it is spelled, was the principal outdoor amusement. One sight on the return trip thrilled me not a little. The Milwaukee road runs between the Big Sioux and Missouri River approaching Sioux City from the north. In that low land some of the corn was not gathered, in such places Jack Rabbit and "bunny" tracks were visible everywhere. As the train approached and paralleled one of the fields, prairie chickens flew up and continued to fly up along a quarter mile stretch, and just at sunset, silhouetted against the sky, hundreds, maybe thousands, the most I ever saw at one time, was a sight to behold. I didn't think there were as many chickens in both of the Dakotas as got up from that fractional quarter.

The State Central Committee of South Dakota hyphenated

its choice of candidates for the presidency—LaFollette—Roosevelt—fearful lest LaFolletts might retire from the race, and hoping that Teddy (Roosevelt) would throw his hat in the ring. Lots of Roosevelt sentiment, sentiment in the north and west, especially Kansas.

A few days after getting home (I) was drafted to go to Chicago to a meeting of the Cullom forces. Returning home found Thos. S. Gleason a candidate for the Legislature and in the meantime have devoted much of my time to his political interests. ---Strange, at this moment as I write about my visit to Dakota—the messenger hands me a telegram from my nephew in Dakota—announcing the death of his wife today at noon, emphasizing the biblical injunction: "In the midst of life we are in death". I am only more pleased with having recently visited them. —Mr. Gleason has the ear marks of a sure winner.

You are escaping plenty of cold weather. Lots of snow and the wind in the north and Perry Duckles says the ground is frozen to a depth of 18 inches, and all in the month of March. Regards to Mrs. Rinaker. All well here. The Chicago end of the family (Judge Lewis and Ollie Vancil Rinaker) all right, too, with Lewis' political prospects A-1.

Yours truly,
(signed)

G. F. Jordan

.....P.S.....General John I. and Mrs. Rinaker were parents of Lewis Rinaker, who was married to Ollie Mahala Vancil who was sister of EFFIE VANCIL JORDAN.

Compiler..Anne Denby Michael 27 Sep 1994